

shores of the streams. These in their characteristics of soil and drainage are like marshes, but they lack the vegetable debris and stagnation which are found in marshes. They are, in fact, much more like wave-washed beaches in small and shallow lakes in their soil forms, differing from them mainly in the fact that they are less exposed to wind action, and have much more fine material deposited in places where slack water occurs. Small shallow pools are left by the retreat of the tides; mud- and sand-bars are abundant, and those which are exposed longest to the light and air, in summer and autumn, are covered with a rich growth of small plants. These, unless examined carefully, would seem unworthy of attention because of their insignificant size, and also because they are more or less covered by the fine silt brought in by the ever recurring tides. The botanist who is looking for unusual and rare species, will however not leave such areas without careful study, and as the Androscoggin River at Brunswick has all of the features described, many hours were spent in the study of the sand- and mud-bank floras of its shores and many interesting plants were found. Most interesting of all was the finding of the little *Eleocharis diandra* Charles Wright. This plant heretofore has not been reported from east of the Connecticut valley, and yet at Brunswick it was evidently at home in the muddy sand of the high water areas of a small cove in the shore of the river. Near it in a shallow pool, growing with *Juncus filiformis* L. and one or two small species of *Sagittaria*, was *Utricularia minor* L., until then an unnoticed plant in Maine, and two well marked forms of *Isoetes*, probably forms of *I. echinospora* Durien. The *Isoetes* were common even as far out as the borders of the deep channel of the stream. A more complete study of such tracts, and of these same ones at different seasons, would undoubtedly yield a rich harvest of obscure and rare species, for plants of this type of habitat are often very local in distribution but where they do occur they are found in abundance.

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THE ELUSIVE CHARACTER OF *POGONIA PENDULA*. — As supplementary to the article on this somewhat transitory plant in RHODORA, ii, 211, a report from Vermont may be of interest.

Mr. Clifton D. Howe wrote from Burlington on Sept. 12, 1899: "Until three years ago *Pogonia pendula* had not been reported in this



state for fifty years, when it was found in Newfane. Since then it has been reported in several other places, but is still very rare. It was found quite plentiful in Newfane three years ago. Last year there were only a few plants, and this summer I have been unable to find one. I wish you would watch your station and see if you have the same experience with it." The observers at this station were Mr. Howe and Dr. A. J. Grout, whose homes were in that town.

Aug. 16, 1899, the day following that on which Mr. Harvey found it in Maine, the writer found a single plant in a rotten stump in Westminster, about ten miles east of Newfane. On Aug. 24 and on subsequent days, I found it quite abundant in a small wood-lot in Putney, less than a quarter of a mile from the first station. It grew in little hollows, the white, oblong tubers being in rotten wood or decayed leaves. Enough plants were found to have furnished specimens for all the botanists in New England, but of the few saved, most were thrown away, as they did not dry well, and it was planned to make careful collections the next year. Last year, however, and this, vain search has been made for this plant in the hollows where it was so plenty in 1899.

Reports from other stations are desirable. Does it thus disappear wherever found? Has any one ever carefully studied it? It seems to need very careful marking if it appears but once in a generation or two of "mortal men." Let those who find it spread the good news and make the most of their discoveries. It seems to be a case of "now or never." Efforts at artificial propagation might be successful in the hands of those who are skillful in the handling of bulbs. — W. H. BLANCHARD, Westminster, Vermont.

## VOLVARIA VOLVACEA IN LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS.

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ON August 5, 1901, a friend brought to me some specimens of fungi which were readily identified from the conspicuous volva, pinkish or salmon-colored gills, and absence of collar, as belonging to the genus *Volvaria*. A visit to the place where they were found revealed a large bed of them. In a dumping ground belonging to the Pacific Mills, Lawrence, a large amount of soiled cop and roving